

HB135 Revising School Bus Mileage Reimbursements

-- Rep. Kevin Furey
(1/12/07)

What HB 135 Does

- Provides state/county mileage reimbursement for:
 - 1) Routes for students living within 3 mile limit of school
 - Relieves traffic congestion around school
 - Addresses hazardous walking conditions:
 - Busy roads, highways to cross
 - Lack of traffic signals or safe crosswalks
 - Industrial areas with potential safety hazards, etc.
 - Lack of adequate sidewalk, walkway or shoulder
 - 2) Routes for transporting students among school facilities during the school day
 - Allows maximum use and sharing of school facilities
 - Examples: band room, career centers, special education cooperatives
- (Note: If they need to transport kids to alleviate overcrowding, they already do that as a bus route and it's already reimbursed.)

- Increases mileage reimbursement rates for school buses used on approved routes:

Bus Size	Current Rate per mi	HB 135 Rate per mi
< 49 capacity	\$0.95	\$1.05
50-59	\$1.15	\$1.27
60-69	\$1.36	\$1.50
70-79	\$1.57	\$1.73
80+	\$1.80	\$1.98
Non-Bus	\$0.50	\$0.55

- Helps districts maximize the use of facilities by moving kids, sharing facilities instead of creating duplicate facilities, which saves money.

What HB 135 Does Not Do

- Does not allow state/county reimbursement for field trips or athletics and activities mileage.
- Does not change rates or eligibility for mileage payments to parents.... same as current
 - Currently, any student living more than 3 miles from the school is eligible for a bus ride and/or parental mileage reimbursement
 - Parent always pays first 3 miles each direction
 - One round trip per day
- Does not affect which students can be transported on buses
 - District must provide a bus or contract for each parent outside 3 mile limit (if district has a transportation program)
 - District may transport kids within 3 mile limit now, but must have at least one student rider who lives outside 3 mile limit to be reimbursed for route.
- Does not require districts to transport students within 3 mile limit, but allows reimbursement if trustees want to.
 - Why might they NOT want to?
 - Not enough buses, expensive start-up
 - District cost per mile might exceed reimbursement by 56% on average
(OVER)

Other Information

- Buses are reimbursed for all miles on an approved route. Current 3 mile limit does not directly affect the number of miles reimbursed on a route.
- Parents will continue to be paid on mileage contracts only if the student lives more than 3 miles from school or bus stop. Total round-trip miles are reduced by 6 miles (3 miles each direction).
- Bus routes are proposed by trustees and approved by a County Transportation Committee at the start of each year. The County Supt. leads that committee.

HB 135

- - - = Routes reimbursed under current law
- . - = Add'l route reimbursed under HB 35

